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Information/Action

Executive Committee

Undergraduate Subject Matter Program Review

Executive Summary: This agenda item presents information about the policies and procedures that govern the review of undergraduate subject matter programs.

Recommended Action: That the Executive Committee consider how it wants to handle recommendations for undergraduate subject matter programs.

Presenters: Beth Graybill, Director of Professional Services.

Strategic Plan Goal: 1

Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification of professional educators

- ◆ Sustain high quality standards for the preparation of professional educators.
- ◆ Assess and monitor the efficacy of the Accreditation System, Examination System, and State and Federal Funded Programs.

Undergraduate Subject Matter Program Review

Introduction

Under current law, candidates for a multiple subject, single subject, or education specialist credential are required to demonstrate subject matter knowledge before completing a program of professional preparation and attaining a credential. Single subject candidates may meet this requirement by either passing a subject matter examination or by completing a Commission-approved undergraduate subject matter program in the subject in which they will teach.

The Commission offers a single subject credential in 21 different content areas. Education Code §44311 requires the Commission to evaluate any subject matter program offered by an accredited institution on the basis of standards of quality and effectiveness adopted by the Commission. Education Code §44259 requires the Commission to ensure that the subject matter program standards are aligned with the state content and performance standards for pupils. The Subject Matter Requirements show where that alignment occurs.

Under the review process adopted by previous Commissions, reviewers examine the program's response to the standards and the supporting documentation (such as syllabi) to determine if the standards are met. Once reviewers determine that a program has met all standards, they recommend, through staff, approval of the program.

Problem Statement

Staff would like direction as to how the Commission wants to handle the review of undergraduate subject matter preparation. The Commission may want to consider revising either the standards or the review process by formally adopting new policies and procedures that will enable the Commission to have confidence in the quality of the undergraduate subject matter programs it approves.